

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 OMB-01 COA-02 EB-11 DRC-01 /106 W

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R 080637Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1129

INFO AMCONGEN LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCON SAPPORO POUCH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.OM 11652 NXA

TAGS: PFOR, UR, JA

SUBJECT: PRAVDA'S ASSESSMENT OF JAPANESE ATTITUDES TOWARD
NORTHERN TERRITORIES

REF: MOSCOW 3448

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. FONOFF FIRST EASTERN EUROPE DI HEAD ARAI HAS
COMMENTED TO EMBOFF ABOUT PRAVDA DISPATCH (REFTTEL)
FROM HOKKAIDO WHICH CONCLUDED THAT JAPANESE THERE ARE
INDIFFERENT TO RETURN OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES BUT VERY
CONCERNED ABOUT TANGIBLE PROGRESS FOR SAFEGUARDING
FISHING OPERATIONS. ARAI ATTACHED NO GREAT SIGNIFI-
CANCE TO APPEARANCE OF THIS DISPATCH IN PRAVDA, AND DID
NOT BELIEVE THAT IT SIGNALLED ANY CHANGE IN SOVIET
POSITION ON NORTHERN TERRITORIES. RATHER, HE LOOKED
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UPON IT AS RATHER HAM-HANDED ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE GOJ POSITION
ON POPULAR LEVEL.

2. NOT SUPRISINGLY, AM CONSUL SAPPORO HAS ENCOUNTERED
QUITE DIFFERENT REACTIONS TO NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE
AMONG HIS CONTACTS THAN THOSE REPORTED IN PRAVDA. HE
AGREES THAT SPONTANEOUS SUPPORT FOR REVERSION IS
INFREQUENT, BUT HE DETECTS WIDE-SPREAD CONVICTION AT ALL
LEVELS AS TO RIGHTNESS OF JAPANESE POSITION, TOGETHER
WITH DETERMINATION TO RETAIN NORTHERN TERRITORIES AS
ONLY SOLUTION THAT CAN SATISFY POPULAR DESIRES. AS ONE
MEASURE OF SENTIMENT, HE NOTES THAT AT 1974 SAPPORO
SNOW FESTIVAL, 56,980 SIGNATURES WERE COLLECTED IN
SUPPORT OF REVERSION, THIS BEING TWICE NUMBER COLLECTED
LAST YEAR. HE ALSO POINTS OUT THAT TWO THIRDS OF
FAMILIES REPATRIATED FROM NORTHERN TERRITORIES AFTER
WORLD WAR II HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN SETTLED IN OR
AROUND NEMURO, THAT MOST OF THESE FAMILIES ARE ENGAGED
IN FISHING, AND THAT CONTRARY TO PRAVDA DISPATCH THESE
FISHERMEN FEEL STRONGLY NOT ONLY ABOUT SAFE FISHING
CONDITIONS BUT ABOUT RETURN OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES,
SINCE ONLY LATTER COULD FULLY INSURE FORMER.

3. HOKKAIDO SHINBUN MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT, FILED
SUMMARY OF PRAVDA DISPATCH, EMPHASIZING THAT LONG
ARTICLE DEVOTED TO HOKKAIDO WAS WITHOUT RECENT PRE-
CEDENT AND CONCLUDING THAT "RELATIVELY SOFT TONE
INDICATES SOVIET POLICY OF PUTTING SPECIAL EMPHASIS
ON FRIENDSHIP WITH HOKKAIDO." ARTICLE TOUCHED ONLY
LIGHTLY ON POINTS MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTTEL, AND CON-
SEQUENTLY THERE WAS NO PARTICULARLY STRONG REACTION
IN HOKKAIDO.
EDMOND

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